



Sarah-Quita Offringa returns home triumphant after taking the gold in Fuerteventura, Spain

An upset victory in the Canary Islands that marks the second leg of the Professional Windsurfing Association World Tour has catapulted young Sarah-Quita Offringa to superstar status and brought honor to her home island of Aruba. Returning with her mother from Fuerteventura, where the young athlete that turned fifteen on July 4 trounced number #1 ranking Daida Moreno in the Women's Freestyle, she found fans and friends eagerly awaiting her at the Reina Beatrix Airport on Wednesday evening.

Known on the windsurfing circuit as "the girl with big hair," with this win Sarah-Quita has set the world record as the youngest woman to win a gold medal in women's freestyle competition. One year ago, in Lanzarote Spain, she was already turning heads and "making a splash" with an outstanding performance that earned her a bronze medal and made headlines. This year she realized her potential despite tough competition and a battle against the windsurfing team of the Moreno sisters, Daida and Iballe, beating them both on their "home turf." For the past month, her picture has graced the sports pages of all the major European newspapers.

Upon arriving home after a month of competition, she was greeted by chants of "Sarah, Sarah, Sarah"; noisemakers, silly string and warm hugs from her father Rude, Aunt Ruth and Oma Dorothy. After the wild greeting at the airport that she deserved, Sarah-Quita relaxed at home with family and friends to enjoy a celebratory cake. She is modest about her win, already reflecting on mistakes she made in Fuerteventura, and what she must do to correct them before the final competitions coming up in September in Germany.

"I was ahead from the first day of the doubles and singles, but Daida Moreno was really going after the win on the last day," explains Sarah. "During the final doubles I was very disappointed in my performance in the first heat, falling a lot, and Daida was doing some great jumps, her fort . For the second heat though, I was very relaxed, and ready to win. I think my mother, watching and filming from the shore was more nervous than I was." Esther is also quick to point out how well Sarah-Quita's older brother Quincy did during the competition, against some very tough contenders, though he did not bring home a trophy.

"I can't get over the reaction of the people when I arrived on shore after my winning heat," confessed Sarah-Quita. "They were all screaming and applauding, they were so excited and happy for me, really supportive." Their enthusiasm is understandable, as everyone loves a Cinderella story where the underdog wins against the established champion, and this little girl from a tiny island in the Caribbean came to the Canaries to conquer, and so she did. Congratulations to Sarah-Quita and her family on a well-deserved win, all of Aruba applauds you!